

O I P E
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Atty. Dkt. No. 061046-0120

Applicant: Toshiaki OOE et al.

Title: NITROGEN OXIDE REDUCING SYSTEM FOR DIESEL ENGINE AND
NITROGEN GAS GENERATING DEVICE

Appl. No.: 09/781,419

Filing Date: 02/13/2001

Examiner: Unassigned

Art Unit: 1764

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO-1449 is a listing of documents known to Applicants in order to comply with Applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56. A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, and within three (3) months of the mailing date of the foreign office action.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

The foregoing documents were cited as being relevant during the prosecution of the corresponding Japanese application.

Document A1 discloses (according to the Japanese Patent Office) a mixer. Document A1 also discloses (according to the Japanese Patent Office) a "psa"-type nitrogen gas generator.

Document A2 discloses (according to the Japanese Patent Office) a pressure reducing valve at the downstream of a nitrogen gas generator, a pressure accumulation tank downstream of the nitrogen gas generator, a check valve between the nitrogen gas generator and the pressure accumulation tank, a switching valve between the pressure reducing valve and supply means, and a flow rate control valve.

Document A3 relates to a method for a driving spark ignition engine.

Document A4 discloses (according to the Japanese Patent Office) a nitrogen oxide reduction apparatus for a diesel engine, in which a predetermined amount of nitrogen gas is supplied to an air intake passage of the diesel engine. Document A4 also discloses (according to the Japanese Patent Office) a nitrogen gas generator which comprises a membrane unit. Document A4 also discloses (according to the Japanese Patent Office) an apparatus for removing black smoke, in which oxygen separated from the nitrogen gas generator is supplied.

Document A5 discloses (according to the Japanese Patent Office) a compressor for compressing air, a pressure accumulation tank, a switching valve downstream of the pressure accumulation tank, and pressure flow rate adjustment means downstream of the nitrogen gas generation apparatus.

The Applicants do not necessarily agree with the characterizations by the Japanese Patent Office.

English translations of the foreign-language documents are not readily available. However, the absence of such translations does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider the submitted foreign language documents (37 CFR §1.98 and MPEP §609). English language abstracts are attached to documents A2, A3 and A5.

STATEMENT

The undersigned hereby states in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(1) that each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to filing of this Statement.

Applicants respectfully request that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO-1449 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

By _____

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i>		APPLICANT Toshiaki OOE et al.	
		FILING DATE 02/13/2001	GROUP ART UNIT 1764

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(Use several sheets if necessary)

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	TRANSLATION	
						YES	NO
A1	49-77029	July 25, 1974	Japan				X
A2	61-204955	Dec. 24, 1986	Japan				Abstract
A3	1-125555	May 18, 1989	Japan				Abstract
A4	2-18608	Feb. 7, 1990	Japan				X
A5	9-47629	Feb. 18, 1997	Japan				Abstract

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED

* EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include any copy of this form with next communication to applicant.